

Home Appliance *NewsLine*

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An  Bulletin to Editors
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Major Appliance Shipments

Continue Advancing in May

CHICAGO -- The major home appliance industry shipped more than 4.0 million units in May for a 3.8% gain over one year ago, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Total year-to-date shipments of nearly 19.2 million units reflect a healthy 5.7% increase over the same five-month period one year ago.

Most of the appliance categories contributed to the excellent month by surpassing their year-ago shipment levels, with four achieving double-digit gains:

- Microwave ovens jumped 27.7% to 650,200 units because of growing consumer interest in replacement products. In 1991, 83% of homes owned microwave ovens, most of which were purchased around 1987, the peak shipment year for the product.
- Freezers increased 20.5% to 131,600 units, their best May level in a decade.
- Dryers advanced 11.6% to 355,800 units, boosted by an all-time high May shipment of gas dryers (92,500 units).
- Gas ranges increased 11.5% to 209,300 units, the product's best May shipment since 1973.

(MORE)

MAJOR APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS...

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Moderate weather prevailed through much of the country in May, depressing demand for home comfort appliances by 10.2% to 688,700 units. Year-to-date shipments of these appliances, however, are down only 3.0%.

By year-end, annual shipments are expected to reach 44.7 million units.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
May, 1992

	MAY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1992	1991	% Change	1992	1991	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	4,055.5	3,908.1	3.8%	19,172.0	18,134.8	5.7%
COOKING - TOTAL	1,122.2	954.0	17.6%	5,667.5	4,948.2	14.5%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	269.9	263.7	2.4%	1,374.0	1,321.7	4.0%
Free Standing	191.1	185.3	3.1%	960.0	923.3	4.0%
Built-In	45.9	45.5	0.9%	240.1	229.8	4.5%
Surface Cooking Units	32.8	32.9	-0.3%	173.8	168.6	3.1%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	209.3	187.7	11.5%	996.1	927.0	7.5%
Free Standing	179.3	158.4	13.2%	841.3	780.6	7.8%
Built-In	6.7	7.5	-10.7%	37.7	37.8	-0.3%
Surface Cooking Units	23.3	21.8	6.9%	117.1	108.6	7.8%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	650.2	509.2	27.7%	3,334.4	2,737.0	21.8%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	851.0	808.7	5.2%	4,509.7	4,324.5	4.3%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	495.2	490.0	1.1%	2,619.8	2,556.7	2.5%
DRYERS - TOTAL	355.8	318.7	11.6%	1,889.9	1,767.9	6.9%
Electric	263.3	246.7	6.7%	1,419.3	1,360.7	4.3%
Gas	92.5	72.0	28.5%	470.6	407.2	15.6%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	604.7	605.4	-0.1%	3,127.2	3,121.8	0.2%
DISPOSERS	303.6	306.5	-0.9%	1,594.7	1,621.3	-1.6%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	293.1	288.3	1.7%	1,484.7	1,448.2	2.5%
Built-In	277.7	271.6	2.2%	1,404.7	1,359.0	3.4%
Portable	15.4	16.7	-7.8%	80.0	89.2	-10.3%
COMPACTORS	8.0	10.6	-24.5%	47.7	52.4	-9.0%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	788.9	773.1	2.0%	3,416.2	3,212.7	6.3%
REFRIGERATORS	657.2	663.9	-1.0%	2,854.7	2,719.9	5.0%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	131.6	109.2	20.5%	561.5	492.8	13.9%
Chest	82.3	65.6	25.5%	332.8	278.2	19.6%
Upright	49.4	43.6	13.3%	228.7	214.6	6.6%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	688.7	766.9	-10.2%	2,451.5	2,527.6	-3.0%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	556.8	613.3	-9.2%	1,955.0	1,985.9	-1.6%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	132.0	153.6	-14.1%	496.6	541.7	-8.3%

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments

** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.

*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.